

# AMIAA News

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# He Lives...

Andrew Torigian



## AMAA NEWS

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### COVER PICTURE

Future Leadership in Middle East -  
Armenian Seminarians at  
Near East School of Theology

*"After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.' " (Matthew 28:1-10)*

*"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' " (Matthew 28:16-20)*

The above verse from the Bible clearly indicates that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and all authority has been given to Him. If this is true, then we all need to believe in Him and be His follower. Jesus has risen from the dead and is alive with us to the end.

Jesus had told His disciples in Matthew 17:22-23 *"The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him and on the third day he will be raised."* Jesus' resurrection restored Him to have authority over all things. Therefore, since He has power over all things, His cause cannot fail. For this reason alone, we should trust Him and follow Him. He has the power to free you from sin. If He is with you to the end, you will never lose.

For over 86 years, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has been touching the lives of Armenians around the world with this Good News: He Lives! And 91 years after the Genocide, Armenians continue to experience the power of this resurrection in their lives.

**Քրիստոս յարեալ ի մեռեցոց. Օրհնեալ է յարութիւնն Քրիստոսի:**

*Krisdos haryav ee merelotz orhnyal e haroutiounn Krisdosi.  
(Christ is risen from the dead. Blessed be the resurrection of Christ.)*



## A Striving and Surviving Community in Lebanon

"Our schools are determined to continue to serve our children and youth against all odds, but will need your constant support", Rev. Megerdich Karagoezian told the AMAA Field Director, Dikran Youmshakian during their meeting at the Union headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon.

Mr. Youmshakian was recently appointed Field Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and part of his responsibilities are visits to the mission field. As such, this was his first trip to the Middle East visiting Armenian Evangelical Churches, schools and institutions in Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. Mr. Youmshakian was accompanied by Hagop Krikorian from Armenia who made a video recording of the mission field and will prepare a documentary on the work in the Middle East. The Field Director during his visits to churches in North America will use the pictures to create more awareness of the urgent needs of our communities throughout the Middle East.

The first stop was Lebanon and a meeting with the leadership of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East. The President of the Union, Rev. Megerdich Karagoezian gave an update and described the difficulties faced by our community in general and in particular with our schools. Unfortunately, political tensions in the area, in Lebanon in particular, have prevented the country's recovery from the

15-year long civil war. There is total uncertainty and the economy, in general, is at a standstill.

In the midst of such uneasy conditions there is still a vibrant and active Armenian community, with churches, schools, cultural organizations, etc. There are, for example, five active Armenian Evangelical Churches in Lebanon and seven schools. All schools except two are affiliated with a church as follows: the Armenian Evangelical College with the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Beirut; the Armenian Evangelical Central High School with the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ashrafieh; the Armenian Evangelical Shamlan Tatigian School with the Armenian Evangelical Church of Nor Marash; the Armenian Evangelical Torossian Middle School with the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church (Dora); and the Armenian Evangelical Secondary School with the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ainjar. The two other schools provide elementary level education only and are not affiliated with a particular church, but



*The compassionate care an elder receives at the Old Age Home in CAHL.*

are under the direct supervision of the Union in the Near East – Armenian Evangelical Guertmenian School in Hadjin and the Armenian Evangelical School of Trad.

As a result of immigration and due to economic restraints, most families are not able to pay any tuition and the school population has decreased, making it harder for all schools to meet their needs.

The AMAA, who has been a pioneer in supporting needy children, established a Child Education Sponsorship Program (long before the Civil War of Lebanon) to provide tuition aid to help needy students. The AMAA remains committed to keep Armenian children in Armenian schools and thus does its best to support the schools finan-



*Sanjak Camp*



*Rita Lao, social worker in Lebanon, visiting a needy family with a subsidy of food supplies.*

cially. The service Armenian Evangelical Schools provide to the new generation is unique as it combines the required local curriculum with both Armenian and Christian Education.

During the visits to each school, it was evident that even though the schools were hit hard financially, their academic achievements were excellent. All four high schools ranked high with almost all students passing the Baccalaureate exams. The schools provide a continuous supply to Haigazian University, which is the only Armenian institution of higher education in the Armenian Diaspora.

The visit to Haigazian University (HU) and the meeting with its President, Dr. Paul Haidostian, was very inspiring. Mr. Youmshakian, a graduate of HU himself, was encouraged to see the buildings renovated and improved, with a record number of students (over 800 in the spring semester of 2006). HU excels academically and many high school graduates consider it their first choice.

A meeting with Dr. Kevork Karaboyadjian, the Director of CAHL (Centers for Armenian Handicapped in Lebanon) was another great experience. The centers house the elderly and also the blind and handicapped. The residents of the centers, in their conversation with the Field Director, were full of compliments for the care provided and especially the personal and compassionate care of its Director.

A sad and very disturbing experience was the visit to poor families through the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center in Trad. Ms. Rita Loa, the Director of the center, gave an update on the situation and informed that there are an increasing number of families living in very poor conditions, many also within the Armenian community. Together they visited some of the families and were disturbed to hear about their difficult experiences and witness their suffering. In the Bourdj Hammoud area (mainly populated by Armenians) there are many families with no electricity, no heat and no running water. Telephone service is a commodity not affordable by many households. People simply cannot pay for the service. Some find it hard to place food on their table. The unemployment rate in Lebanon remains very high and prices have skyrocketed. One area which needs immedi-



*KG Students at Trad School enjoying a moment in front of the camera.*

ate attention is the Sanjak Camp where 18 Armenian families still live in very primitive conditions. The camp is the only one left from the early years when Armenian refugees settled in the suburbs of Beirut. The municipality of Bourdj Hammoud would like this area to be developed and desires to move the families. The municipality, however, has only limited resources to help these families.

The Field Director also visited the Near East School of Theology (NEST) where nine Armenian students are preparing for ministry.

The visit to the Armenian Village of Ainjar was very touching. The village is located in the Bekaa Valley (about 30 miles from Beirut) and near the Syrian border. It is 100 percent inhabited by Armenians. The Armenian Evangelical School of Ainjar has 300 students. Almost half are in the boarding school, most of whom come from difficult family situations. The boarding school, once completely funded by the German Hilfsbund Missionary Organization, today faces major deficits. Hilfsbund, gradually over the years, continues to reduce their financial support.

The Armenian community in Lebanon is a thriving community. It acts as a major force and perhaps is still the backbone of preservation of Armenian Christian Heritage in the Diaspora. A significant number of leadership in North America, and in particular among Armenian Evangelicals, have

their roots in the Middle East. The Armenian community in Lebanon is very active both politically and also in preserving the Armenian Christian Heritage. Yet today they need our support. Along with our concern and prayers, we should share the responsibility of helping our brothers and sisters financially. The Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center provides aid to the needy families, both physically and also spiritually. Unfortunately, the number of needy families is on a tremendous rise and the center has limited funding. Special aid for Lebanon relief through the Center will provide hope to these families. CAHL needs assistance to improve its facilities. One urgent need, according to Mr. Karaboyadjian, is that of an elevator in the home for the blind to prevent further accidents and injuries.

Assistance to our schools is essential. Over 80 percent of the students in Armenian Evangelical Schools cannot pay any tuition. Unless these students are sponsored through the AMAA they might be prevented from an education. The cost of sponsoring one child is only \$200 per year. Those who are concerned and care can contact the AMAA headquarters at 31 West Century Road, Paramus, New Jersey, 07652 or call the AMAA at 201-265-2607.

Our sincere hope is that upon reading this news release the readers will be moved to reach out and make a difference in the lives of our people in Lebanon.



### Alaverdi Center and Church

**A**laverdi is a mid-sized town in the region of Lori in northern Armenia, close to the Georgian border. The population is approximately 13,000. The main industry is a copper factory, which employs 600 people. Like most in Armenia, people are unemployed and living in poverty.

AMAA started its Alaverdi ministries during September 1999 by sending Mr. and Mrs. Arthur and Gayane Ochianian to establish AMAA's humanitarian and Christian Education ministries.

During this time, God was preparing a former resident of Alaverdi to join Arthur and Gayane in ministry. In a miraculous way, God saved Samuel Nalbantian, a criminal just released from prison, and called him to serve in his hometown of Alaverdi. Today, God is using Samuel most effectively to reach out to boys. Alaverdi is the only AMAA ministry center where boys and young men outnumber girls. In a culture where nearly 80% of church attendees are women, this is amazing indeed.

AMAA's Alaverdi team has started ministries also in two neighboring villages called Odzoun and Toumanian.

In Alaverdi, AMAA and the Evangelical Church of Armenia provides Worship service for adults and Sponsorship of 31 needy children.

Also, ten Christian workers reach out to 260 children and youth offering the following ministries in Alaverdi and the two neighboring villages:

- Sunday School
- Youth ministries
- Soccer ministries
- Discipleship teams
- English language instruction
- Needlework class

A building which was recently purchased in Alaverdi region for use by the regional center and the Evangelical church needs some renovation to be usable. The building will be used to serve as an AMAA office, Christian Education center, humanitarian relief center, and church sanctuary. Currently, ministries are housed in rented facilities, which are small and inadequate. This purchased building is larger, more centrally located, and will house all ministries together. The renovation will include demolition and debris removal, new doors and windows, electrical and lighting, heating system, lavatories, ceilings and floors as necessary. Exterior work will include sidewalk and driveway, stairs, gates, and play area. The costs are estimated to be around \$90,000.



Alaverdi is an area of Armenia where AMAA continues to make a difference in the lives of the people. For such a large, structurally sound property, the cost to renovate is a small investment that will reap large returns – in terms of ministry as well as property value. It is the least expensive option providing all that is critically necessary to the work in Alaverdi. AMAA relies on its members and friends to fulfill this project. Please prayerfully consider your part in helping this planned project become a reality for God's work among the people of Alaverdi. If you are interested in supporting this mission project or any other similar projects, please contact the AMAA Headquarters. Thank you for your part in our mutual commitment to the Lord. □

### The Gospel of Luke in Armenian Braille

With the initiative of the Bible Society of Armenia, 116 students of Blind School No. 14 of Yerevan received the Gospel of Luke in Armenian Braille. AMAA's Representative Rev. Rene Leonian in his capacity as the Vice Chair of the Bible Society of Armenia, along with Arshavir Kapoujian, the project manager, participated in the distribution of the books. The Bible Society of Germany brought its unique share in the publication of the 500 copies of the Gospel of Luke in Armenian Braille financed by the Compass Braille Organization of England.

The future plans of the Bible Society of Armenia are to publish the Psalms in Armenian Braille and make them available to more than 3,000 blind people throughout Armenia.

The AMAA has been a partner with the Bible Society of Armenia since its inception. □



## March is AMAA Month

It has been a long-standing tradition to dedicate the Month of March to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). During March, Armenian Evangelical Churches worldwide celebrate and praise God for the mission and service ministries of the AMAA. Each Sunday of March is dedicated to the AMAA praying for the workers, volunteers, leaders, members, friends and most of all for the mission fields and the missionaries serving there.

March 2006 as in previous years was once again observed as the month for the AMAA. On this occasion representatives from the AMAA visited churches, particularly on the West Coast, where the AMAA Board also had their meeting.

On Sunday, March 5, the AMAA Executive Director, Mr. Andy Torigian visited the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles preaching and participating at a special luncheon. The Field Director, Mr. Dikran Youmshakian visited the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena preaching and participating at a special luncheon. Vice President Mr. Peter Kougasian preached at the St. Nareg Armenian Church of Whittier and Board Member Dr. Raffi Balabanian visited the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Glendale, where he preached and gave a report on the activities of the AMAA.

On Tuesday, Mr. Dikran Youmshakian visited the Armenian Evangelical Merdinian School, where he spoke to the students during the morning chapel. He encouraged the students to be strong, diligent and faithful, and not to forget that they have brothers and sisters in other countries around the world.

On Wednesday, March 8, the Armenian Christian Fellowship of Thousand Oaks had a special observance of the AMAA at the home of Vartan and Angele Jambazian. Over fifteen people were gathered enjoying the hospitality of the Jambazians. The AMAA Field Director was there to thank the group for their faithful support and to give an update on the mission activities in Armenia and the Middle East. The Fellowship supports the College Scholarship Program in Arme-



*AMAA Field Director with the Missions Committee of the Pasadena Church (top), speaking to the Merdinian students (center), and with some of the members of AMAA Thousand Oaks Fellowship (above).*



nia. In lieu of gifts on all occasions (birth, birthday, wedding, anniversary etc.), members of the group, instead of exchanging gifts, send their donations to the AMAA, which provides scholarships for over 50 needy college students in Armenia. Last year \$10,000 was raised and distributed for this purpose.

On Sunday, March 12, the AMAA Field Director visited the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Las Vegas in Nevada. The Las Vegas church is a young congregation established through the church planting committee of the AEUNA and through the support of the AMAA. The pastor of the church is Dr. Kegham Tashjian. After worship service, the Field Director had a lunch meeting with the Church Council learning more about this new community in Las Vegas and also challenging them to participate in the mission activities of the AMAA.

The Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA observed the AMAA Sunday on April 2nd. After the worship service the congregation gathered in the church hall for lunch and a special program for the AMAA. A video presentation on mission work in Armenia was so much appreciated. It was followed by a question-answer period. The Field Director updated the church on the needs of



*AMAA Field Director speaking at the AMAA luncheon of Memorial Church in Watertown, MA.*

our Armenian communities in Lebanon and Syria. The Armenian Memorial Church is a faithful supporter of the AMAA. For many years the church has sponsored a Christian worker in Armenia. In response to the appeal of the Field Director, the church decided to sponsor a sister church in Armenia.

Even though March is AMAA Month, this is no reason for us not to continue to pray for the AMAA every Sunday or every day. The missionary work carried on through this unique organization is dependent on the prayerful and financial support of faithful Christians. □

## **AMAA Sunday at the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, CA**



*(front row l to r) Grace Kurkjian, Cynthia Ketenjian-Chairperson of UACC Missions Committee, Dr. H. Steven Aharonian-AMAA President, Andy Torigian-AMAA Executive Director, Grace Avazian. (top row l to r) Dolores Samuelian, Dovey Cartozian, Arpi Geuvdjelian, Marilyn Zeronian, Lydia Nercessian, Dale Narwitz, Elsie Haig. Missions Committee members missing from picture - Marilyn Mickaelian, Thelma Kevorkian, Helene Bedrosian and Piper Close.*

**T**he Missions Committee of the United Armenian Congregational Church (UACC), under the chairmanship of Cynthia Ketenjian, served a luncheon following the UACC's church worship service on Sunday, March 5, 2006 in their beautiful banquet hall. There were close to 140 people present on this day which was designated as AMAA Sunday. Cynthia was the Master of Ceremonies and she introduced their children's choir who sang several beautiful songs, which were very appreciated by the audience. The main speaker for the event was the AMAA Executive Director Andy Torigian who gave a brief history of how the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was formed and how it became the missionary arm of the Armenian Evangelical Churches throughout the world.

Rev. Ron Tovmassian commended the committee and the church members in their support to the AMAA, who in turn helps our Armenians, who are in need throughout the world. He gave the closing prayer.

A video of the AMAA's various programs was shown which indicated the different mission programs that the AMAA has in Armenia. □

### APC Missions Concert Raises Funds to Help Provide an Outdoor Recreational Center for its Sister church in Vanatzor, Armenia



(front row l to r) Louisa Janbazian-Concert Co-Chair, Daniel Decker, Rev. Berj Gulleyan, Elbiz Baghdikian-Concert Co-Chair, Marie Alberian, (back row l to r) Margaret Rassam-Missions Committee Co-Chair, Andy Torigian, Nicholas Aynilian-Missions Committee Co-Chair, Nayri Gueykian and Bob Avakian. Missing from picture are Vahak Hanessian and Nyree Shishmanian.

The Missions concert of the Armenian Presbyterian Church (APC) on March 12<sup>th</sup> featuring the international recording artist, Daniel Decker was an inspiration to a full house.

The Evangelical Church of Armenia in Vanatzor, the third largest city of Armenia was founded by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) in 1994. The congregation of the Vanatzor church met in a rented facility for several years and, when land was purchased to construct a new church building in 1998, the APC helped with the funding, and since then have adopted it as its sister church. The new church building was dedicated in 2004. The sanctuary seats more than 400 people. The members of APC helped with the furnishing of the sanctuary by providing the pews, the pulpit and the Communion table. Last year the APC also donated an organ to the church to enhance its worship services.

As the APC Missions Committee was making a decision for a project this year, it was made aware by the AMAA of a need for an outdoor recreation center and playground for the Vanatzor Church. Though it is a beautiful structure, it was built on very rocky terrain, making it impossible to hold outdoor activities in a safe environment for over 600 children in the church and surrounding community. Along with Sunday School, Youth Group activities and Vacation Bible School, classes in English, French, arts and crafts and woodcarving are given free to all who wish to attend. It was a need that must be met. Our children, here in the United States, have access to the very best recreation available, including expensive computer games, etc. This is not possible for most of the children in Armenia. But they are bright and extremely talented, and should be provided with a "state-of-the-art" center. Besides a playground and sports facilities, there will be an outdoor theatre stage. Thanks to all our supporters, the March 12 concert reached the financial goal necessary to construct the Recreation Center. □

### Euphrates Church AMAA Mission Dinner Raises Funds for its Sister Church in Stepanavan, Armenia



AMAA Field Director Mr. Dikran Youmshakian with Euphrates Church Missions Committee members.

On Saturday evening, January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church (AEEC) of Providence, RI held the first of two fundraiser dinners for the sole purpose of supporting the Pastor of its sister church in Stepanavan, Armenia. The fellowship hall was filled, not only with the church members, but also with dedicated people from the community who continually and faithfully support our endeavors.

Mr. Dikran Youmshakian, Field Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), was present to participate in the activities celebrating the AMAA ministries. The banquet program included a report on the activities of the AMAA and a video presentation on the work in Armenia. The worship service on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> was also dedicated to the AMAA and *Badveli* Dikran gave us a heartwarming message from the pulpit.

AEEC is actively involved in raising funds for various projects supported by the AMAA. Some recent projects included "Search for Sneakers," "Back Pack Program," "Christmas Joy Packages," and "Summer Camp Program." In addition, the adoption of a sister church in 1999 has proved to be most successful. The church's main support project is providing financial support for the partial salary of the pastor of The Armenian Evangelical Church of Stepanavan, Armenia as well as supporting the Sunday school in that church. Besides financially supporting the pastor's salary, each year the Missions Committee comes up with a "fun" idea for the children in the Sunday school of the sister church. Most recently, they sent over \$500 worth of school supplies for the children, i.e. pencils, erasers, coloring books, crayons, stickers, etc.

We thank all the AEEC congregants, as well as those within the community, for their continued and dedicated support as they to bless those who need our help. There is no better way to thank God for what we have than to give cheerfully to those in need. □



## Haigaizian Auxiliary Accepts Jinbashian/Derian Donation to Marashtzi Student Scholarship Fund

Anouche Getzoian Jinbashian and Anahis Derian, long time residents of Pasadena, California, have generously donated \$3,000 to the Haigazian University Marashtzi Student Scholarship Fund. The presentation was made recently at a Haigazian Women's Auxiliary Luncheon at the Pasadena home of John and Mary Kassabian, which Anahis Derian was able to attend.

The donation was bestowed in loving memory of Artin Getzoian (grandfather of Anahis) who was born in Marash. Artin's life was saved during the Genocide because this expert tailor was able to craft uniforms for the Turkish soldiers. Artin's children from his first wife, Nuritza, who died in Marash when her children were young, were Hovhannes Getzoian and Efronia Getzoian Jinbashian, Anahis's mother who for many years, ran the European Bakery and Grocery in Pasadena (Est. 1957) with her husband. Artin's second wife was Guluzar Keshishian, a widow. They were blessed with a son, Sarkis Getzoian, now deceased, and a daughter Anouche Getzoian Jinbashian, co-scholarship donor. □



*Front Row, from left, Haigazian Auxiliary members Suzie Phillips, Silva Hussenjian, Anahis Derian holding banner, Thelma Kevorkian, Mary Kassabian, Ida Levy, and Grace Kurkjian. Back row, Phyllis Hamo, Joyce Abdulian, Hilda Murachanian, Silva Marounian, Sirvart Mouradian, and Rita Tilkian Hasserjian. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banner stitched in famous Marash needlework was presented to Henry and Anahis Derian in commemoration of their golden jubilee \$500,000 donation to Haigazian University. It exhibits the Haigazian motto: "Truth, Freedom, Service."*

## Wider Church Ministries Allocates \$189,000 For the Projects of AMAA

The Executive Committee of the United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries was welcomed at the Headquarters of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) in Paramus, NJ, as one of their mission partners and allocated \$189,000 to the AMAA. The monies are allocated 75% for church and educational projects in Armenia and 25% for urgent church and educational needs in Lebanon and Syria. The AMAA cherishes the long-standing partnership between the two Christian organizations since 1958 and appreciates the Wider Church Ministry's dedication to these vital AMAA projects. □

*Standing Left to Right: Al DePaola, Jr., Operations Director of AMAA; H. Steven Aharonian, M.D., President of the AMAA; Andrew Torigian, Executive Director of the AMAA; Peter Makari, Ph. D., Executive Director for the Middle East and Europe of the United Church of Christ; seated Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries; Rev. Diane Christopherson, Board Member of Wider Church Ministries and Mrs. Ann Kiernozek, Treasurer of Wider Church Ministries.*



## Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno Donates Equipment to Open Two Complete Dental Clinics in Armenia

Recently Rev. Ara Guekguezian, the pastor of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno, CA presented enough dental equipment to furnish two dental clinics in Armenia.

The AMAA currently has dental clinics in Vanatzor and in Yerevan. The AMAA is grateful to the donors of such a blessing, as this will enable us to open two additional clinics in remote cities of Armenia, which will serve people who are not able to afford such services.

The AMAA supplies the manpower and the essential accessories that are needed to operate a dental office. Anyone wishing to help fund the clinics may contact the AMAA to make a tax-deductible contribution to this project.



(l to r) Peter Guekguezian, student at St. John's University in Maryland and AMAA Scholarship Recipient; his father, Rev. Ara Guekguezian, Pastor of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church and Andrew Torigian, Executive Director of the AMAA.

### *Spiritual Corner*

#### **Paid in Full**

*by Dikran Youmshakian*

Once you stamp "Paid in Full" on a note or on an invoice, that statement cannot be used anymore for collection. One document on which most homeowners would like to see the "Paid in Full" stamp is their mortgage note. When a mortgage is paid in full people usually celebrate with a mortgage burning ceremony. A mortgage note or an invoice, however, is not stamped until all the required payments are made; to the last penny.

When God created the human being, God did it in gratuity. There was no note signed indicating that we owed God payments, except to be obedient to Him. It was their own choice for people to fail and create a huge debt to be paid for their redemption.

God, however, being a loving, caring and forgiving God (unlike lenders) gave people opportunity after opportunity to redeem their debts. Unfortunately, at no time were people willing to pay for their debts in full, instead they kept refinancing it. A balance due was always left, until God decided to send His only Son, who came and who suffered death on the cross.

Jesus with his death paid for all our burdens and He paid it in full. He paid it through His suffering on the cross. They nailed Him to the cross, they put a sponge of vinegar in His mouth and they even pierced a spear in His side to make sure that He was dead. When the time came for His death, Jesus' last words according to John were, "It is finished," or "It is Paid in Full." Jesus' glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday was the confirmation of the final and complete payment.

Once a mortgage note is paid in full it will be a shame for us to hold on to it and use it as a burden on ourselves. We need to burn it and thus close that chapter and start a new era with the Lord. Jesus at many instances when He forgave a sinner He said "Go and sin no more." This same message He brings to us with His "Paid in Full" message today. He has paid in full for our sins and, therefore, we ought to sin no more. □



## The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of Merdinian School

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of the Armenian Evangelical Charlotte and Elize Merdinian School of Sherman Oaks took place on March 12, 2006 at Sheraton Universal Hotel. The Master of Ceremonies of the Banquet was Mr. Louis Kurkjian, a Board Member of the Armenian Missionary Association of America and Haigazian University.

The Kenote Speaker of the Banquet was Dr. Hrair Atikian. His theme was "I have a Dream" and said his dream is one day to enter the new structure of the Merdinian School, which has a state-of-the-art Library with an Armenian section, wide classrooms, laboratories and playground. He concluded his words by challenging the friends of Merdinian School to start a major campaign at the threshold of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary to fulfill that dream.

Two alumni, Ms. Natalie Meneshian (1998) and Ms. Karin Sardarian (1995) testified to the quality education that they received at Merdinian School. They both are studying in universities now, majoring in Political Science and Medicine, respectively.

The school Principal, Mr. Hovsep Injejikian stressed once again the importance of a new structure for the school and the addition of upper classes and eventually reaching the High School level.

Mr. Greg Martayan, Encino District Council, presented three plaques of appreciation to the Chairman of the School Board.



*The members of the Merdinian 24th Annual Banquet Committee (front row l to r) Dr. Ani Darakjian, Seta Nalbandian, Sirvart Mouradian, Rita Tilkian Hasserjian, Rita Meneshian, Gilda Bedrosian (second row l to r) Ani Hanessian, Helga Sarkis, Maral Matossian.*

The Merdinian students provided the music for entertainment, followed by a slide show, depicting scenes from school life by Rita Hasserjian.

The Banquet raised over \$50,000 and Mrs. Juliette Abdulian, on behalf of the Women's Auxiliary, presented another check for \$10,000.

Founded in 1982, Merdinian School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The school nurtures children from preschool through middle school by offering a strong academic program, emphasizing Christian and ethical values for the development of sound characters and teaching Armenian and American Traditions.



*The Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Louis Kurkjian*

### An Appeal for Armenian Bibles

Recently, on the occasion of the 1600th Anniversary of the Armenian Alphabet, the AMAA published a special edition of the Western Armenian Bible (Old and New Testaments). The Bibles were printed in different formats - Extra Large-hard cover; regular size-hard & soft covers and genuine leather. These Bibles are offered to the public for a donation of \$25 (\$30 for the genuine leather). The donations received will help the AMAA distribute free Bibles in our homeland Armenia, to Armenian immigrants in Europe or through the prison ministries. For every 2 Bibles purchased, one free Bible will be available for these ministries. Please complete the form and make the Word of God available to others.

Enclosed please find my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Bibles.

Name .....

Address .....

Tel. .... E-mail .....

## **AMA-Australia Raises Funds for Armenia and Lebanon**

**T**he Annual Banquet of the Armenian Missionary Association of Australia (AMA-Australia) was held on March 25, at the Nalbandian Hall of the A & S Gaultaun School of the Armenian Cultural Association.

The main highlight of the banquet was the Fashion Show by designer Kevork Shadoyan. 43 children and young people from the Sydney Armenian community modeled the costumes. This unique event in its style was appreciated and enjoyed by over 300 guests from various factions representing the Armenian Community of Sydney. Upon a special appeal made by the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney, Rev. Krikor Youmoushakian, 25 students attending schools in Lebanon were sponsored and over \$6000 was raised for various AMAA Armenia relief projects.

The Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney is very active in the local Armenian Community and also beyond the continent down-under, through the AMA-Australia, an affiliate of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). AMAA-Australia is particularly involved in



*Some of the participants in the fashion show with Designer Kevork Shadoyan (left)*

supporting mission programs in Armenia and also in the Middle East. The AMAA-Australia was officially launched on Sunday

March 11, 2001 when Mr. Andrew Torigian, then AMAA President, was visiting the church. □

### **Announcing the AMAA's 2005 James G. Jameson Essay Contest Winners**

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) is pleased to announce the winning entries of the 2005 James G. Jameson Essay Contest. This year's finalist in the college competition is Ms. Sareen Basmadjian of Pasadena, CA, for her essay, "Vartan Mamigonian and the Perpetuation of Christian Armenians" and the finalist in the high school competition is Mr. Scott Yerganian of Medfield, MA, for his essay, "The Genocide Memorial." We are pleased to publish Scott Yerganian's essay in this issue for its relevance with the month of April - the Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide on April 24.

The James G. Jameson Essay Contest, sponsored by the AMAA, runs every academic year starting in October. The topics of the Contest should touch upon some aspect of Armenian heritage, such as religion, literature, language, history, culture, geography, economics or history. Awards for the Contest are made in two categories: College/University contestants and High School contestants. The deadline for the 2006 James G. Jameson Essay Contest is October 15, 2006.

All Armenian or part-Armenian students are eligible. Only unpublished essays are accepted, written in English and have a length of 1,000 to 2,000 words. The winner in each category is awarded a small scholarship, provided from the income of a special fund established by Mr. & Mrs. James G. Jameson of Brookline, MA. □



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# The Genocide Memorial

By Scott Yerganian

As an Armenian-American living in Massachusetts, I have been raised in a family that embraces our heritage. My parents grew up in Watertown, the second largest population of Armenians in the United States, and it is also where I attend church. I am consciously aware of how my great-grandparents were survivors of the Genocide. I have also attended the annual Armenian Genocide commemoration ceremony at the State House with my family multiple times. However, it wasn't until I visited the Genocide Memorial in Armenia that I could truly appreciate its impact on me. Many of my non-Armenian friends only know of the Genocide because of me, and what I have told them. I also believe that Armenian-Americans view the Genocide quite differently than people in Armenia do.

A couple of months ago, my mother received an email about the Stanford University and Harvard University Armenian Clubs. Apparently, they had joined together to make a wristband, much like the yellow "LiveStrong" bracelets that many Americans are wearing today. The wristbands were created to spread awareness of the Genocide. It reads, "remember the forgotten," in reference to our ancestors who were victims of the Genocide. Feeling that this was an excellent cause, my family purchased several and wear them proudly. Hardly a day goes by without someone asking us what the tricolor band represents, providing us an opportunity to remind, or educate, people about the Genocide. Upon being accepted into the Cambridge-Yeravan Sister City Association (CYSCA) program, we thought it would be a great gift to bring to the Armenian students in Yerevan.

During my stay in Armenia, the Yerevan students asked me about my wristband. I explained it to them, and they thought it was a great cause for me to support. I kept quiet about my supply of them, not wanting to spoil the surprise that was to come later. One evening, after my host family celebrated my birthday at home with the other Armenian students and their families, I brought them out and gave one to everyone. They were all ecstatic. The wristbands, worn by the American and Armenian students, would come to symbolize our unity. Even more important, it showed the Armenian students that we could share something together that symbolized "freedom of expression." It gave us something that binded us together.

While the wristband has become a small symbol of remembrance of the Genocide victims, the Genocide Memorial in Yerevan really puts in perspective the importance and continuing impact the Genocide has on Armenians on a daily basis.

The Genocide Memorial is located in Yerevan upon a high hill, and when you are in the main area, you can see a vast view of the city, stretching for miles. This is the largest and most prominent memorial in the city. It consists of a large, narrow pyramid,

representing the Diaspora, and the Memorial itself, which is an everlasting flame encircled by twelve concrete pillars that lean over the flame, forming a circle. In between each pillar is a set of stairs that leads to the inside of the circle, with the flame blazing in the middle. It is a moving sight. After exiting the encirclement and heading back towards the main path, you pass a small grove of young trees, all planted in rows. Next to each tree is a plaque with an inscription on it. I found out that all of these had been donated by many people throughout the world, many of them being from congressmen and senators from the United States. There was also a tree donated by Pope John Paul II. One that I found interesting was a tree donated by Lech Walesa, the leader of the Solidarity movement in Poland during the Cold War. I learned about him in history class, and it made a great connection for me. CYSCA has been very dedicated as a sister city, especially because it was founded by non-Armenians. Armenians can't keep the fire burning alone, and it takes the dedication from others, such as non-Armenian members and friends of CYSCA, to keep our history from being forgotten. Our sister city keeps the flame alive through its attention on Armenia, her people, her history, her past, and her future. I never realized how much of a worldly presence there was there; by observing this, it was a bridge between both worlds, between two cities.

While the structural design of the Memorial was impressive, realizing why it was there made me feel very emotional. When I was younger, my dad would always talk of traveling to Armenia one day. Well, I am the first from my family to do it, and it truly didn't hit me until I was at the memorial. I had seen pictures of the site before, and I had heard about it, but it is completely different being there in person. The presence is all around you and there is a somber mood. I remember staring into the flame and thinking to myself that this, right in front of me, represented my ancestors who were killed in the Genocide. Pictures mean nothing compared to witnessing something firsthand. Standing in the Memorial, I felt a sense of pride at being Armenian. That we were able to overcome adversity and rise up and build a monument like this is amazing. I was proud of both my nationality and myself.

Traveling to Armenia left a lasting impression upon myself that I will retain forever. Growing up as an Armenian-American, I have always dreamed of going to my country of origin. It is a dream that I think most teenagers have thought of at least once in their life. One of the most impressive things that I will always remember is the landscape, and traveling all throughout the country. Looking out the bus windows at the tall hilltops, the sharp cliffs, and the low valleys, I realized the true beauty of the countryside. Gazing at the summit of Mount Ararat, just as my ancestors once did, I knew I was truly an Armenian. □

## Յիսուս Լացաւ

### Տիգրան Եռւմշաֆեան

Լալը մարդկային զգացումի արտայայտութիւն է: Մարդիկ կու լան, թէ՛ նեղութեան եւ թէ՛ ուրախութեան առիթով: Կու լանք երբ հարազատ մը կորսնցնենք: Կու լանք երբ ցաւինք ֆիզիքայէս նաեւ հոգեպէս: Կու լանք, երբ նեղութիւն կամ կը ձախողինք: Կու լանք նաեւ, երբ ուրախ ենք: Օրինակ, երբ երկար բաժանումէ մը ետք, միանալով հարազատի մը հետ, ուրախութեան արցունքներ կը հոսին: Հարսեր կու լան իրենց հարսանիքի նախօրեակին, հակառակ անոր, որ հարսանիքը ուրախութեան առիթ է: Մարդիկներ կու լան, երբ կը շահին իրենց յաղթութեան բաժակը կամ ոսկիէ մետաղը:

Յիսուս ալ, որովհետեւ մարդկային կերպարանք առաւ, լացաւ: Յիսուս լացաւ, երբ իմացաւ Ղազարոսի մահը: Ան լացաւ մանաւանդ՝ երբ տեսաւ Ղազարոսի բոյրերուն լացը: Այս Յիսուսի առաջին լացն էր ըստ Աւետարաններուն: Ատկէ ետք, սակայն, Յիսուս անգամ մը եւս լացաւ, երբ Ծաղկազարդի Կիրակին Երուսաղէմ քաղաքը տեսաւ: Այսուհանդերձ, այս երկրորդ լացը մարդկային լոկ զգացումէ աւելի բարձր զգացում մըն էր:

Յիսուս լացաւ մարդոջ քաղաքի մը վրայ: Յիսուսի լացը նեղութեան լաց էր, բայց ոչ իրեն համար անձնապէս: Յիսուս լացաւ ոչ անոր համար, որ Ան ֆիզիքական ցաւ ու տառապանք կ'ապրէր Երուսաղէմի մէջ: Ոչ անոր համար, որ ան կ'ապրէր իր աշակերտներէն մէկուն Ջիմի դաւաճանելը: Եւ ոչ ալ անոր համար, որ Երուսաղէմի կրօնական պետերը եւ հռովմայեցի իշխանները զինք պիտի ծաղրէին:

Յիսուս լացաւ, մինչ ամբողջ ժողովուրդը խանդավառութեամբ եւ Ովսանաններու կանչով կ'ընդունէին Ջիմի: Յիսուսի այս լացը մարդկային ուրախութեան կամ հպարտանքի արտայայտութիւն ալ չէր, որովհետեւ նմանօրինակ պատմաւորներով եղած լացը պիտի ըլլար լոկ մարդկային զգացումի արտայայտութիւն: Յիսուսի այս երկրորդ լացը ունէր երկնային իրականութիւն եւ յայտարարութիւն:

Յիսուս Երուսաղէմի եւ բոլոր ժողովուրդին համար լացաւ, որովհետեւ անոնք տակաւին անտարբեր էին այն երկնային խաղաղութեան, որու պատգամը կը բերէր ինք: Մինչ մարդիկ կ'ապրէին երկրաւոր թագաւորի մը գալուստը, որ իրենց անձնական շահերը պիտի ամբողջացնէր, Յիսուս կը բերէր անոնց՝ յոյսի, սիրոյ, գոհողութեան եւ զոյգումի պատգամը: Մարդիկ, եւ նոյնիսկ իր աշակերտները, տարբեր ակնկալութիւններով տակաւին հեռու կը մնային այդ իրական-

նութենէն: Անոք կը մնային եւ պիտի մնային թուլասիրտ: Զարմանալի չէ, որ Յիսուս լար, քանի կը նախատեսէր Երուսաղէմի կործանումը:

Յիսուս լացաւ Երուսաղէմի վրայ, սակայն Ան նաեւ իր կեանքը խաչին վրայ տուաւ ոչ միայն Երուսաղէմի համար, այլ համայն մարդկութեան համար: Լալ եւ իր կեանքը գոհել, միայն կը բացատրուէր Յիսուսի Աստուածութեան յանգամանակով:

Այսօր, Յիսուսի այդ լացէն, խաչելութենէն եւ յաղթական Յարութենէն մօտ 2000 տարիներ ետք, արդեօք ո՞րքան փոխուած է մարդ արարածը: Միայն այդ պիտի արժեւորէ Յիսուսի լացն ու տառապանքը: Այսօր, երբ Յիսուս դիտէ մեր կեանքերը որպէս անհատ, ընտանիք, եկեղեցի կամ խումբ, արդեօք ի՞նչ պիտի ըլլայ իր կեցուածքը: Կ'արժէ Աւագ Շաբթուան օրերուն խորհրդածել այս հարցումին մասին, նկատի առնելով Յիսուսի արդէն իսկ թափած արցունքն ու արիւնը:

Արցունքը ու տառապանքը դժբախտաբար անձանօր չէ Հայ ժողովուրդին, որ հաւատարիմ մնալով Քրիստոսի, ի գին արեան պահեց հաւատքը հաւատարմութեամբ: Ցեղասպանութիւնը ահռելի արարք մըն էր, որ յիշելով իսկ, այսօր տակաւին կրնանք շարունակել լալ: Սակայն, Հայ ժողովուրդը գիտցաւ լալու այդ հանգրուանէն վեր ելլել, սրբել իր արցունքները, վերապրիլ, գոյատեւել եւ պայքարիլ արդարութեան համար:

Այսօր Հայ ժողովուրդը անգամ մը եւս կ'անցնի դժուարին հանգրուանէ, ըլլայ մայր հայրենիքի եւ կամ Միջին Արեւելքի մէջ (ինչպէս կը կարդանք անգլերէն բաժինին մէջ): Քրիստոսի եւ մեր նախահայրերու գոհողութեան չափանիշով, ո՞րքան պատրաստ ենք օժանդակելու եւ նեցուկ կանգնելու անոնց պետներուն: Միայն մեր գոհարեութեան պատրաստակամութիւնը կրնայ սրբել արցունքները անոնց աչքերէն: Այլապէս, Յիսուս Քրիստոսի արցունքն ու թափած արիւնը ապարդիւն պիտի ըլլան մեզի համար:

Արդեօք Յիսուս շարունակելու է լալ ու մեռնիլ մեզի համար, երբ Ան արդէն իսկ անցուցած է այդ փորձառութիւնը: Ինչո՞ւ ուրեմն, մեր վարժով, ապրելակերով ու գոհողութեան հոգիով ցոյց չտանք աշխարհի, թէ Յիսուս Քրիստոս աշխարհ եկաւ մէկ անգամ ընդ միշտ սրբելու մեր արցունքները ու անոնց հետ նաեւ մեր մեղքերը: Միայն ապրելով Քրիստոսը եւ սրբելով իրարու արցունքները կրնանք սրբել նաեւ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի արցունքները եւ միանալ Անոր՝ իր երկնային խաղաղութեան եւ ուրախութեան մէջ: □



## Haigoui Chaijian Jorjorian

"I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Of all the Scriptures this verse describes best Aunt Helen, for she continually honored and praised God regardless of her circumstances.



She was born in the village of Mezre in the province of Kharput in 1911. Her peaceful life with her family changed dramatically in 1915 when her father along with the men of the village were taken by Turkish soldiers and executed outside of town. Knowing the future, her mother entrusted Helen and her sister Maritza to the care of a sympathetic Moslem family. Soon the soldiers returned and marched the women and children out of town. Helen and her sister, now ages four and nine, were left with nothing but each other and a loving God.

They went from orphanage to orphanage in Armenia, Syria, Greece and Yugoslavia, ending up in a boarding school in France in the 20's. Their care and support was provided by a missionary group and a loving family from Michigan. Later in life, she would have the opportunity to likewise sponsor an Armenian child through the AMAA.

She came to Boston, and was married to George Jorjorian in 1938. They were blessed with their only child, Elizabeth. In 1949, Elizabeth died of misdiagnosed appendicitis. This was the lowest point of Aunt Helen's life. However, soon she made a decision to embrace God and to allow Him to help her through her grief. Her spirituality grew and blossomed over the next 55 years, shaped by further hardship, such as the death of her husband at age 65.

For years she reached out to shut-ins in her neighborhood, driving them to church and doctors' appointments, and shopping for them. She also volunteered at a local nursing home.

Her last few years were spent with considerable back pain due to several bone fractures. She loved God and longed for heaven. He called her home peacefully on December 10, 2005 surrounded by her niece and nephews. We miss her dearly, but are so grateful for having had her in our lives.

Margaret Nigohsian  
Richard and Paul Talanian

## Ալիս Աւետեան Պոյնէրեան

Ալիս ծնած էր Սեպտեմբեր 15, 1922-ին Հալէպի մէջ: Երիտասարդ տարիքին ընտանիք կը կազմէ Գառնիկ Պոյնէրեանի հետ: 1954-ին Լիբանան կը հաստատուին եւ Աստուած իրենց կը պարգեւէ մէկ հատիկ զաւակ մը՝ Պօղոս: 1970-ին կը փոխադրուի Միացեալ Նահանգներ եւ բնակութիւն կը հաստատէ հայահոծ Ուաթըրթաունի մէջ, եւ ապա, 1996-էն մինչեւ իր մահը կը բնակի Arsenal Apartments ծերանոց-հանգստարանին մէջ:



Ալիս կանուխէն ընդունած էր Յիսուսը՝ որպէս իր կեանքի անձնական Տէրը ու Փրկիչը - իրականութիւն մը, որ կ'արտայայտէր խօսքով, ծառայասիրութիւնով, երգով, եկեղեցիի հաւատարիմ անդամակցութիւնով, զաւակին ու բոնեակներուն դաստիարակութիւնով: Զինք բանջանդներ կը վկայեն անոր աշխատասիրութիւնը, օգնելու ու ծառայելու պատրաստակամութիւնը, հարցերուն հանդէպ դրական մօտեցումը ու լաւատեսութիւնը: Ան երկար տարիներ ծառայած է ՔՁԱԿ-ի (Լիբանանի Քրիստոնէական Զանգի Ամառնային Կեդրոն) խոհանոցէն ներս եւ Միացեալ Նահանգներ հաստատուելէ յետոյ խնամած է հիւանդներ ու ծեր կիներ:

Իր մահը կը գովծեն իր զաւակը՝ Պօղոս ու իր կողակիցը՝ Նէնսի, բոռները՝ Մարթա եւ Ալիսիա, ինչպէս նաեւ բոլորն ու եղբայրը՝ Մարի եւ Յակոբ (երկուքն ալ Ֆրանսա բնակութիւն հաստատած):

Ալիս մնչեց Շարաք, Մարտ 4-ին, Մոխ Աւրբն հիւանդանոցին մէջ, յետ կարճատեւ հիւանդութեան, շրջապատուած ընտանիքի անդամներով ու եկեղեցիին Հովիւով իր մահով Պօղոս՝ իր զաւակը, կը կորսնցնէ գոհուող, տիպար եւ հաւատացեալ մայր մը, Արարեալ Ապարտմընս-ի բնակիչները՝ իր դրացիները կը կորսնցնեն աշխատատեղ, ժպտուն ու աստուածավախ ընկերուհի մը, Ուաթըրթաունի Հայ Աւետ. եկեղեցիին՝ Ալիսի 35 տարուայ եկեղեցին, կը կորսնցնէ հաւատարիմ, երգող ու վկայող անդամ մը, իսկ մեծ ընտանիքը իր ազգականները կը կորսնցնեն անոր յանձնարարի հեռաձայները, այցելութիւնները եւ մամուլանդ՝ համեղ ճաշերը: «Տէրը տուաւ եւ Տէրը առաւ, օրհնեալ Ըլլայ Տէրոջ անունը» (Յոր. 1. 21):

Վեր. Աւետիս Պոյնէրեան

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA News

- \* *Arakelian, Lucy*  
Hawthorne, NJ
- \* *Arzoomanian, Alice*  
Hackensack, NJ
- \* *Attarian, Mary*  
Drexell Hill, PA
- \* *Avedian, Mark*  
Visalia, CA
- \* *Chengrian, Angele*  
Smithtown, NY
- \* *Kalemkarian, Victoria*  
Wallingford, PA
- \* *Hanoian, Kathryn*  
Fountain Valley, CA
- \* *Kabrielian, Albert*  
Fresno, CA
- \* *Sayian, Jean*  
Rockville, MD
- \* *Thomson, Hrant*  
Denville, NJ

\* Memorials designated for AMAA

## AVAILABLE FROM AMAA BOOK SERVICE PROGRAM

**An Olive Branch from Lebanon** - The Testimony of Hosanna Allen (pb, 5.25" by 8.5", 190 pp, price \$12).



Ovsanna Allen (known as 'Hosanna') like all other Armenians was forced to leave her home by the Turkish Gendarmes. Ovsanna writes about the way in which God led her, the daughter of refugees who fled to Beirut, Lebanon, by picking her out of unforeseen protracted civil war situations in Beirut - as it were on the wings of an eagle - and set her on safer land. As a mother and grandmother she now lives in Matlock, Derbyshire.

To obtain a copy, please contact the AMAA at 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652 - tel. 201.265-2607. All proceeds will go to Childcare programs in Armenia.

## AMAA SUMMER CAMPS IN ARMENIA, GEORGIA AND KARABAGH

In cooperation with the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA), during the summer of 2006, AMAA will organize Summer camps in Armenia and in Karabagh locations:

- Camp "Sheen" Shoghik in the Hankavan region of Armenia
- Camp Bedrosian in Shushi, Karabagh

AMAA Summer Camp programs in Armenia, Georgia and Karabagh are designed to share the love of Jesus with children and youth in very practical ways. Every summer, thousands of children attend AMAA Armenia camps to play, learn, enhance their talents, socialize, meet new friends and be nourished in a Christian atmosphere of tender loving care. Many return home with tears in their eyes. They prefer to stay on and enjoy all the summer fun the camp has to offer.

In addition, AMAA will organize over 50 day camps and Daily Vacation Bible Schools in 46 cities and villages throughout Armenia, Karabagh and Georgia.

More than ten thousand children are expected to participate in these overnight and day camps.

The logistics of operating these camps are formidable. A staff of workers (cooks, cleaners, drivers, etc.) have to be



hired; over a hundred volunteer camp counselors have to be recruited and trained; the children have to be selected, assembled and transported; and the entire operations have to be coordinated and supervised. It costs about \$50 per child per session to operate a summer camp and about \$25 per child per session for a day camp. To meet these costs, the AMAA depends on its members, friends, affiliated churches and concerned Christians. We hope you feel as we do about the importance of these summer camps in the life of Armenia's children, and appeal to you to "sponsor" as many of these children as you are able by donating the appropriate multiples of \$50 and \$25. We can assure you, based on our fifteen years of experience in operating these camps, that your donation will have a dramatic impact on young lives.

*Yes, I would like to "sponsor" children to attend summer camps in Armenia, Georgia and Karabagh.*

*Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for*

*\_\_\_\_\_ Children @ \$50 each for summer camps*

*\_\_\_\_\_ Children @ \$25 each for day camps*

*Name -----*

*Address -----*

*E-mail -----*

*(Make tax deductible donations to AMAA earmarked for Armenia Summer Camps and mail to 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652)*

Armenian Missionary Association of America  
31 West Century Road  
Paramus, NJ 07652

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